18.   The method of claim 8, wherein said managing comprises at least one of performing I/O admission control, determining read-ahead size, or a combination thereof.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein said managing comprises performing said I/O admission control by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; and determining whether or not a capacity of said system is sufficient to support at least one additional viewer based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space.

20.   The method of claim 18, wherein said managing comprises determining said read-ahead size by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; setting a cycle time based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and determining a number of read ahead data blocks based at least in part on said cycle time, said monitored data consumption rate, and a size of said data blocks.

21.   The method of claim 18, wherein said managing comprises performing said I/O admission control by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; and determining whether or not a capacity of said system is

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sufficient to support at least one additional viewer based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and

wherein said managing further comprises determining said read-ahead size by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; setting a cycle time based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and determining a number of read ahead data blocks based at least in part on said cycle time, said monitored data consumption rate, and a size of said data blocks.

22.   The method of claim 6, wherein said modeling utilization of at least one of said I/O resources is performed using an analytical-based resource model.

23.   The method of claim 6, wherein said modeling utilization of at least one of said I/O resources is performed using a measurement-based resource model.

24.   The method of claim 8, wherein said at least one storage device comprises a disk drive or a partitioned group of disk drives; and wherein said modeling comprises modeling utilization of at least one of said I/O resources based at least in part on at least one system I/O performance characteristics associated with said I/O resources, said I/O performance characteristics comprising at least one of seek and rotation latency, estimated transfer rate, or a combination thereof.

25.   The method of claim 3, wherein said method further comprises validating an estimated value of at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics by measuring a value of said

at least one system I/O performance characteristic, and comparing the measured value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic to the estimated value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic.

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26. The method of claim 25, wherein said method further comprises reporting an alarm based at least in part on said comparison of the measured value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic to the estimated value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic.

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27. A method of managing I/O resources for delivery of continuous media data to a plurality of viewers from a storage system including at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices, said method comprising modeling utilization of at least one of said I/O resources; and managing at least one of said I/O resources based at least in part on said modeled

15 utilization.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein said storage system comprises a part of a content delivery system coupled to a network; wherein said continuous media data is delivered to said plurality of viewers across said network; and wherein said storage system includes at least two

20 storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices for delivery of said continuous media data.

25 29. The method of claim 28, wherein said content delivery system is coupled to said network at an endpoint of said network.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein said I/O resources comprise I/O capacity and buffer

30 memory space of said information management system; wherein said method further comprises modeling said I/O capacity based at least in part on a workload distribution across said at least

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